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7 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
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9 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
12 Plaintiff,

No. CR 14-0175 WHA

13 v.

**ORDER DENYING MOTION  
TO RELATE CASES**

14 PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC  
15 COMPANY,

16 Defendant.  
17 \_\_\_\_\_/

18 Random assignment of matters in our district court is important to maintain public  
19 confidence in our process. Deviation from random assignment should occur under our  
20 related-case rule only where a case is genuinely related within the meaning of the rule. To be  
21 sure, the complaint in *Cannara v. Nemeth, et al.*, Case No. C 19-04171 EMC, concerns the  
22 subject of wildfires caused by PG&E, but the complaint deals primarily with other important  
23 public policy issues. More specifically, the complaint concerns the extent to which liability for  
24 loss of life and property from wildfires started by PG&E (and other utilities) must be borne by  
25 innocent rate-paying customers (as opposed to the owners of the utility) and also the extent to  
26 which the recent enactment in Sacramento resulted from campaign contributions from PG&E  
27 (and other utilities). Despite the importance of these issues to California, their resolution will  
28 not substantially impact the ongoing supervision of the offender in the criminal probation in

1 *USA v. PG&E*, Case No. CR 14-0175 WHA. Therefore, the motion to relate the civil case to  
2 the criminal case is **DENIED**.

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4 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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6 Dated: August 12, 2019.

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WILLIAM ALSUP  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE